



March 1, 2012

Inside this issue:

Multinational
Operation Targets
Transnational
Organized Crime

3

Joint Task Force-Bravo

News from the front

Volume 1, Issue 2

JTF-B delivers medical care to 1,980 patients



The preventive health team saw more than 1,980 Hondurans from the villages of San Rio Tinto, Cerro Del Vigia and La Bacadia during the four-day Joint Medical Readiness Training Exercise from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1. During this Joint MEDRETE medical professionals treated illnesses including respiratory infections, skin infections, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diabetes, and high blood pressure. (Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks/Released)

by Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs

OLANCHO, Honduras -- Members of the Joint Medical Readiness Training Exercise team saw their final patient in the village of La Bacadia as part of a four-day MEDRETE mission to provide medical assistance to the Honduran communities throughout the region Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 here.

The Joint MEDRETE team which consisted of members from the Honduran Ministry of Health, the Honduran military and Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, provided medical services to approximately 1,983 Hondurans.

Included in that number were 1,671 patients screened, more than 300 tooth extractions, 10 immunizations, 96 women's wellness visits and over 2,665 medications distributed.

Col. Matthew Rettke, JTF-Bravo's Medical Element commander, said he was proud of the work and the partnership that the Joint MEDRETE team accomplished during the four-day event which serviced the areas of San Rio Tinto, Cerro Del Vigia and La Bacadia in the Olancho District.

"This was a very productive event that impacted the lives of many throughout the Olancho District," Rettke said. "It
Continue on Page 2



Joint Task Force-Bravo

News from the front

Page 2



Joint Task Force-Bravo members participated in Organizational Day to enhance unit morale. (Photo/Martin Chahin)



A small Honduran child looks around the room while U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sarah Shipman, Medical Element medical technician, and Sgt. Cesar Burgos, Joint Security Forces member, screen his family before sending them to a physician during a Joint Medical Readiness Training Exercise Jan. 31. Nurses and medical technicians evaluated approximately 1,671 during the four-day MEDRETE in the Olancho District. (Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks/Released)

From Page 1

was apparent to us by the way they opened their homes and schools and allowed us to set up and provide medical services in them."

During this Joint MEDRETE, medical professionals treated illnesses including respiratory infections, skin infections, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

There are several mission objectives to MEDRETES, to include providing U.S. military personnel training in delivery of medical care in austere conditions, promoting diplomatic relations between the U.S. and host nations in Central America, and providing humanitarian and civic

assistance via a long-term, proactive program.

"This was a great opportunity to team up with the Honduran government and the Honduran Ministry of Health," Rettke said. "This partnership is key and gives our personnel an opportunity to provide medical care in austere conditions similar to what they would encounter in a disaster response."

In fiscal 2011, Joint Task Force Bravo and Honduran Ministry of Health clinicians provided general medical care to 14,401 patients and dental care to 1,061 patients for a total of 15,462

Hondurans receiving much-needed assistance.



Multinational Operation Targets Transnational Organized Crime

by U.S. Southern Command
Public Affairs Office

MIAMI, Fla. -- Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South), a component of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), announced today its participation in Operation MARTILLO (HAMMER), a U.S., European, and Western Hemisphere partner nation effort targeting illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along the Central American isthmus.

The United States contribution to this multinational detection, monitoring and interdiction operation includes U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels, aircraft from U.S. federal law enforcement agencies, and military and law enforcement units from various nations working together to deny transnational criminal organizations the ability to exploit these transshipment routes for the movement of narcotics, precursor chemicals, bulk cash, and weapons.

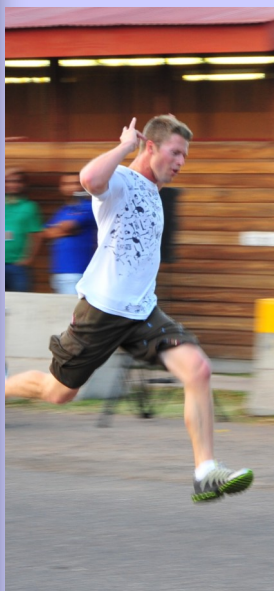
In describing the purpose of the operation, the commander of SOUTHCOM, U.S. Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, highlighted the extent of illicit trafficking in the region and its harmful impact on the lives of citizens within the widely-used transit zone.

"More than 80 percent of the cocaine destined for U.S. markets is transported via sea lanes, primarily using littoral routes through Central America," he said. "Working with our partner nations, we intend to disrupt their operations by limiting their ability to use Central America as a transit zone."

"Illicit trafficking jeopardizes the safety and well being of citizens of every country and has a negative influence on regional and national security," Fraser added.

Operation MARTILLO is a critical component of the U.S. government's coordinated interagency regional security strategy in support of the White House Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and the U.S. Central America Regional Security Initiative.

In 2011, international and cooperative interagency efforts coordinated through JIATF South resulted in the disruption of 119 metric tons of cocaine, with a wholesale value of \$2.35 billion, before it could reach destinations in the United States. JIATF South's efforts also enabled the interdiction of \$21 million in bulk cash destined for traffickers in Central and South America and \$16 million worth of black market goods.



Team Soto Cano held a Cupid Shuffle run Feb. 14 in celebration of Valentine's Day. (U.S. Air Force/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks)

GUANAJA ISLAND, Honduras - A UH-60 Blackhawk crew, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, conducts deck-landing qualification training aboard the USS Nicholas here Jan. 25. Eight JTF-Bravo pilots completed five consecutive bounces, which are landings, liftoffs, circling then repeating the process. It takes approximately 30 minutes for each pilot to complete the deck-landing qualification. In total, 11 crew members qualified and now the battalion has four-qualified crews which is a semi-annual requirement. This training increases the unit's ability to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as enhances its' medical evacuation capability. (U.S. Army photo/Capt. David Zupancic)





Joint Task Force-Bravo

News from the front



JTF-B helps Habitat for Humanity

LA PAZ, Honduras — More than 20 Airmen, Soldiers and a Marine from Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, excavate a hole to lay foundation for a home with Habitat for Humanity Honduras here Feb. 4. Servicemembers assist habitat volunteers with digging, picking and shoveling dirt for first-time homeowner, Wendy Zajoerre. Building a home through the organization will save Zajoerre the equivalent of \$10,000. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded in 1976. Three years later, the nonprofit opened its doors in Latin America. In Honduras, the organization has improved housing conditions for 11,500 families. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Lloyd Malone)



JTF-Bravo welcomes new Command Sgt. Maj.

SOTO CANO AB, Honduras - Army Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Barteky, accepted responsibilities as Joint Task Force-Bravo's new Command Sergeant Major during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 10 in the Honduran Air Force Hangar 1. JTF-Bravo is comprised of more than 600 U.S. military personnel and more than 650 U.S. and Honduran civilians who work in six different areas including the Joint Staff, 612th Air Base Squadron, Army Forces, Joint Security Forces, Medical Element, and the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. (Photo/Martin Chahin)



NFL players visit JTF-Bravo

SOTO CANO AB, Honduras—James Lee, Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive lineman, gets attacked by a Joint Security Forces military working dog during a demonstration Feb. 5 at Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. Lee along with Darrel Young, Washington Redskins fullback, and Drayton Florence, Buffalo Bills cornerback, watched the Superbowl with Team Soto Cano and received a tour of the base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Candice Allen/Released)



Joint Task Force-Bravo

News from the front

Page 5



SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras - Master at Arms Seasman Dustin Tyler, a dog handler with Joint Security Forces here, trains his military working dog, Jake, during building search training earlier this month. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Candice Allen)



Air Forces Southern commander makes first visit to Joint Task Force-Bravo

SOTO CANO AB, Honduras – Lt. Gen. Robin Rand, Commander, 12th Air Force, enjoys breakfast with Airmen from the 612th Air Base Squadron and the Medical Element during his first visit to Joint Task Force-Bravo Jan. 24 here. Joint Task Force-Bravo is comprised of more than 600 U.S. military personnel and more than 650 U.S. and Honduran civilians who work in six different areas including the Joint Staff, 612th ABS, Army Forces, Joint Security Forces, MEDEL, and the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. (Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks)



Army South commanding general visits Joint Task Force-Bravo

SOTO CANO AB, Honduras – Hodge Joseph, a CH-47 and UH-60 technical inspector for 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment briefs Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombittas, Commanding General, United States Army South, during his visit to Joint Task Force-Bravo Jan. 24 here. (Photo/Martin Chahin)